This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A print management system that allocates each print demand to one of multiple printing devices, which print an image on a medium ~~like printing paper~~, said print management system comprising:

 a print demand acceptance module that receives a print demand including at least one ~~image~~ printing request; and

 a print allocation module that, when the received print demand includes plural printing requests ~~for printing an at least partially identical image plural times~~ <u>of a partly or wholly identical image</u>, allocates the plural printing requests ~~for printing the at least partially identical image plural times~~ to one ~~identical~~ printing device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A print management system in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of the printing requests included in the print demand has identification information for identifying an image to be printed, and

 said print allocation module allocates multiple printing requests for printing at least an image having an identical piece of the identification information to one ~~identical~~ printing device.

Claim 3 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the identification information includes at least one of a file name of each image, identification information for identifying a digital camera used to record the image, date of recording the image with the digital camera, and a data size of the image.

Claim 4 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 1, said print management system further comprising:

a printing request number detection module that detects a number of printing requests allocated to each of the multiple printing devices,

wherein each of the multiple printing devices accepts allocation of printing requests from said print management system to a preset number and successively executes the preset number of printing requests, and

said print allocation module allocates a printing request on the condition that any of the detected numbers of printing requests allocated to the multiple printing devices is less than the preset number.

Claim 5 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said print allocation module, when there are plural printing devices having the number of allocated printing requests less than the preset number, allocates a printing request to the printing device having a less number of allocated printing requests.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A print management system that allocates each print demand to one of multiple printing devices, which print an image on a medium ~~like printing paper~~, said print management system comprising:

a print demand acceptance module that receives a <u>first</u> print demand <u>including at least one printing request</u>; and

a print allocation module that, ~~when the received print demand includes a printing request for printing an at least partially identical image with~~ <u>in response to reception of a second print demand including a printing request of a same image as</u> an allocated image of ~~another~~ <u>a</u> printing request <u>of the first print demand</u>, which has already been ~~allocated to any~~ <u>sent to a given printer</u> of the multiple printing devices, allocates the printing request ~~for printing the at-least-partially-identical image~~ <u>of the second print demand to the given printer</u> ~~to a relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated~~.

Claim 7 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 6, wherein each of the printing requests included in the print demand has image identification information for identifying an image to be printed,

said print management system further comprising:

an information storage module that stores the image identification information for identifying the allocated image and the relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated,

wherein said print allocation module allocates a printing request for printing an image having an identical piece of the image identification information with the stored image identification information for identifying the allocated image to the stored relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated.

Claim 8 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the identification information includes at least one of a file name of each image, identification information for identifying a digital camera used to record the image, date of recording the image with the digital camera, and a data size of the image.

Claim 9 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 8, wherein each of the printing requests included in the print demand has customer identification information for identifying a customer who demands printing of an image,

said information storage module stores the customer identification information with regard to the allocated image, and

said print allocation module allocates a printing request for printing an image having an identical piece of the image identification information with the stored image identification information for identifying the allocated image and an identical piece of the customer identification information with the stored customer identification information with regard to the allocated image to the stored relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated.

Claim 10 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 6, said print management system further comprising:

a printing request number detection module that detects a number of printing requests allocated to each of the multiple printing devices,

wherein each of the multiple printing devices accepts allocation of printing requests from said print management system to a preset number and successively executes the preset number of printing requests, and

said print allocation module allocates a printing request on the condition that any of the detected numbers of printing requests allocated to the multiple printing devices is less than the preset number.

Claim 11 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said print allocation module, when there are plural printing devices having the number of allocated printing requests less than the preset number, allocates a printing request to the printing device having a less number of allocated printing requests.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A print management system that allocates each print demand to one of multiple printing devices, which print an image on a medium ~~like printing paper~~, said print management system comprising:

a print demand acceptance module that receives a print demand including at least one ~~image~~ printing request <u>of an image, the printing request being provided</u> with settings of a number of pages and number of copies to be printed; and

a print allocation module that allocates the received print demand as a whole or in units of pages to one of the multiple printing devices.

Claim 13 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 12, said print management system further comprising:

a printing request number detection module that detects a number of printing requests allocated to each of the multiple printing devices,

wherein each of the multiple printing devices accepts allocation of printing requests from said print management system to a preset number and successively executes the preset number of printing requests, and

said print allocation module allocates a printing request on the condition that any of the detected numbers of printing requests allocated to the multiple printing devices is less than the preset number.

Claim 14 (Original): A print management system in accordance with claim 13, wherein said print allocation module, when there are plural printing devices having the number of allocated printing requests less than the preset number, allocates a printing request to the printing device having a less number of allocated printing requests.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A print management method that allocates each print demand to one of multiple printing devices, which print an image on a medium ~~like printing paper~~, said print management method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a print demand including at least one ~~image~~ printing request; and

(b) when the received print demand includes plural printing requests ~~for printing an at least partially identical image plural times~~ of a partly or wholly identical image, allocating the plural printing requests ~~for printing the at least partially identical image plural times~~ to one ~~identical~~ printing device.

Claim 16 (Original): A print management method in accordance with claim 15, wherein each of the printing requests included in the print demand has identification information for identifying an image to be printed, and

said step (b) allocates multiple printing requests for printing at least an image having an identical piece of the identification information to one identical printing device.

Claim 17 (Original): A print management method in accordance with claim 15, said print management method further comprising the step of:

(c) detecting a number of printing requests allocated to each of the multiple printing devices,

wherein each of the multiple printing devices accepts allocation of printing requests from said print management system to a preset number and successively executes the preset number of printing requests, and

said step (b) allocates a printing request on the condition that any of the detected numbers of printing requests allocated to the multiple printing devices is less than the preset number.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A print management method that allocates each print demand to one of multiple printing devices, which print an image on a medium ~~like printing paper~~, said print management method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a print demand <u>including at least one printing request</u>; and

(b) ~~when the received print demand includes a printing request for printing an at least partially identical image with~~ <u>in response to reception of a second print demand including a printing request of a same image as</u> an allocated image of ~~another~~ <u>a first</u> printing request, which has already been ~~allocated to any~~ <u>sent to a given printer</u> of the multiple printing devices, allocating the printing request ~~for printing the at least partially identical image~~ <u>of the second print demand to the given printer</u> ~~to a relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated~~.

Claim 19 (Original): A print management method in accordance with claim 18, wherein each of the printing requests included in the print demand has image identification information for identifying an image to be printed,

said print management method further comprising the step of:

(c) storing the image identification information for identifying the allocated image and the relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated, into an information storage module,

wherein said step (b) allocates a printing request for printing an image having an identical piece of the image identification information with the stored image identification information for identifying the allocated image to the stored relevant printing device, to which the printing request for printing the allocated image has already been allocated.

Claim 20 (Original): A print management method in accordance with claim 18, said print management method further comprising the step of:

(d) detecting a number of printing requests allocated to each of the multiple printing devices,

wherein each of the multiple printing devices accepts allocation of printing requests from said print management system to a preset number and successively executes the preset number of printing requests, and

said step (b) allocates a printing request on the condition that any of the detected numbers of printing requests allocated to the multiple printing devices is less than the preset number.